

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, January 17. 1710.

I Am now come to answer a most bare-fac'd and unheard of Insult upon the *House of Commons*, which the high (and at present raging) Party have in their Mouths upon the present Occasion of Dr. Sacheverell, Viz. *That they dare not go on with it.*

Really, the *House of Commons* are in the Fancies of these People brought to a fine Pass — *They dare not go on with it.* say the *High-Flyers* — And I with all Submission say, *they dare not BUT go on with it:* And let me examine with you, Gentlemen, the Particulars, we shall soon extricate the *House.*

They dare not but go on with it, because Men of Honesty DARE not omit their Duty — The Man of Honour is well describ'd

by a known Philosopher, that he DARES not do a dishonourable Thing — The truest Gallantry and Greatness of Mind, says a learned Person, is not to DARE to do a base Action. In this Sense, a Member of Parliament that has a Sense of the Reason why he sits in that *House*, and the Business that brought him there — Viz. The Service of his Country, he DARES not omit, or neglect, or go back from any thing, that he thinks is a Debt from him to his Country; he DARES not see the Constitution trampled upon, the Laws insulted, the Revolution buffoon'd, and the Government banter'd, and not resent it in Behalf of the whole Island, prosecute it to the utmost, and put a Stop to the Insolence.

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It is in this Sense I DARE speak of something, the *House of Commons* (magnipotent as they are) *DARE not do*; just thus the School-men speak of Negatives Infinite, That GOD cannot lye, he cannot deceive, or in short, he cannot do what is in its Nature inconsistent with the Being and essential Properties of a GOD. The *House* dares not do, i. e. they cannot suffer themselves to do any thing contrary to the Being, Constitution, and Nature of a Representative; they are some of the essential Properties of the *House of Commons*, to be the Keepers of the Peoples Liberties, the Expositors of their Laws, the Disposers of their Treasure, and the Preservers of their Property. When these are all given up and betray'd, when a Doctrine is preach'd up for Sacred, that gives up all these to the Lust of an arbitrary Tyrant; and when a Faction is setting up, and growing strong among us, that would pull down all our Fences of the Law, and lay open Religion, Property, Liberty and Life, to Tyranny, make Men passive Brutes, and divest them of the Right of Self-Defence, whether National or Personal; to say the *House of Commons* can sit still, and hear this utter'd in the Pulpit for Gospel, and printed from the Press for Law—How is it possible, any Member, who thinks himself a true Representative, can sit still and bear it?—They cannot bear it, they dare not bear it.

But to go on with it, let me ask this foolish Party a few Questions about this new Notion.

1. The *House of Commons* dare not go on with it! Why, who shall hinder them? Who shall they be afraid of?
2. If they should drop such a Cause as this, and such a Party as this, pray, how will this Party behave, and who will they busy next?
3. If they dare not go on with a Prosecution of Non-resisting Errors, how long will it be, before Nature may rebel against Principle?
4. If they dare not go on with it NOW, when do you think, they may venture to go on with it?

5. If the *House of Commons* dare not go on with these People, pray, how far will they soon go on with us?

These are long Questions, and have a great Deal to be said to them by Way of Answer; but I shall give a brief Answer; *Flatter not your selves with the Notion*, The *House of Commons* will most certainly go on with every thing Justice calls for, and the Principle of Passive-Obedience, Non-Resistance, and Hereditary Divine Right, shall receive their Doom from the Vote of Parliament—They have their Character expressly set down in the Stigma put upon the Doctor's Sermon, (*viz.*) That they are Scandalous, Seditious, and Malicious—How could it be otherwise? The very Doctrine he preach'd had all those Epithets due to it from the Nature of our Constitution, and from the Consequence of the Revolution.

And can any Man doubt, but what is seditious, malicious, and scandalous, will be pursu'd in the Parliament as it deserves? Let them tell us of any National Grievance, that, if duly represented, has not met with Redress—It is the very Design and End of Parliaments to heal Breaches, redress Grievances, and restore the Body Politick, when wounded or distemper'd.

To say they dare not, is to insult them, not unmannerly and indecently only, but foolishly and absurdly; 'tis ridiculous to say, the *Commons of England* dare not correct a bold Attempt on our Liberties in a mean and scandalous Subject, when it is apparent, they have done it in the greatest Favourites of their Princes, and higher than that too.

But who is it the *House* should be afraid of, that should cheque their Proceedings, and put a Stop to the Prosecution of most abominable Scandal? It cannot be the Person of Dr. *Sacheverell*, he cannot be so formidable as to fright a *House of Commons*—It must then be the great, the mighty, the potent Body of the Party. The great Armies of *High-Flyers*, the Regiments of *Black-Guards*, the *Essex Squadrons*, that the *Jacobites* and *High-Flyers* are capable of bringing into the Field. *Ridiculus Mus!* Are these the terrible Bug-Bears

Bears that should fright a *British* Parliament? Are these the Gentlemen that the Nation should be apprehensive of? — Let us see their Power drawn up in Battalia; let us look back upon the mighty Things they have done in Defence of their Glorious Cause.

When the *French* Fleet was on the Coast, King *William* absent, no Troops at home, our Fleet over-power'd, and flying from the Enemy; if ever they would have shown themselves, it would have been then, when the Pretender was invading Us, and a *French* Power at his Heels, and little or no Force to oppose him; Did a Man of them stir?

Nay, take it in general; Did they ever strike a Stroke for their Cause, when King *James* was in *Ireland* before the *Boyn*, and a flourishing, powerful Army with him? Where were his swaggering Friends? The *French* indeed sent him Help, 8000 Foot, and some very good Officers; but among all the Party, he could never form one Troop of Volunteer Gentlemen from *England* to make any Appearance; not a Man, comparatively speaking, took Arms, for the Lords anointed; all they did then, and all they have done ever since, is to stay at home, and drink for him, swear for him, rail and snarl at those they dare not oppose. —

Noise and Clamour we have from them in great Plenty, and where they can instil corrupted Principles into the Heads of the People to divide and disturb them; this they do with extraordinary Diligence, but for their Hands, they are a most despicable Party — I need quote no more for this, than a known Author of their own, who wrote a Poem, call'd the Great and Bloody Fight between three *Pagan* Knights and a Christian Giant; *Anglicè*, between three City *Tory* Knights, all Linen-Drapers, and a *Whig* Dyer; the Story is in short thus.

Three *Tory* Knight Linen-Drapers in *Cornhill* meeting their Linen Dyer at *Christmas*, to take a Treat from him at making up their Accounts as usual, will needs make the honest Dyer drink the Duke of *Tork's* Health — He refuses, being a rank *Whig*, they damn him, and swear he shall; he still refuses; till at last they growing hot, he begs them, being his Masters, and who be lov'd by, to leave him to his Liberty, but still positively refuses to comply with them — They rage, storm, bann, and at last strike him — When Old *English* Blood, born for Liberty, could bear no longer, but falls upon them, beats them all, tramples them under his Feet, and tumbled them headlong down Stairs — And so much for *Tory* Fighting — Of this the Poet sings thus;

Now, *Tories*, take a Friend's Advice,
Well-wisher to your Nose and Eyes,
That never lik'd this Enterprize,
To *Whigland* so delighting.
Drink for the Duke while you can stand,
Chase all Dissenters round the Land,
With Glasses ready charg'd in Hand;
But pray take heed of Fighting.

Wells, p. 16.